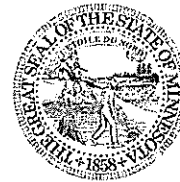




**STATE OF MINNESOTA
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**



**In the Matter of the Xcel Energy
Application for a Certificate of Need for
a Large Wind Energy Conversion
System in Mower County**

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
SCOPING DECISION
PUC Docket No. E002/CN-07-873**

The above matter has come before the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce (the Department) for a decision on the scope of the Environmental Report (ER) to be prepared on the proposed Grand Meadow Wind Farm Large Wind Energy Conversion System proposed for Mower County, Minnesota. Staff of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Facilities Permitting Unit (EFP) held a public meeting on September 19, 2007, to discuss the project with the public and to solicit input into the scope of the ER to be prepared. The public was given until October 10, 2007, to submit written comments regarding the scope of the ER. Having received no comments on the matter and consulted with EFP staff, I hereby make the following Scoping Order that the ER shall address the following matters:

ISSUES TO BE EVALUATED

- 1.0 Grand Meadow Project Description [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 1, A]**
- 2.0 Alternatives to be Evaluated [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 1, B]**
 - 2.1 No-build Alternative
 - 2.2 A Generic 100 MW Wind Project
 - 2.3 A 38.5 MW Biomass Plant
- 3.0 Human and Environmental Impacts [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 1, C, D]**
 - 3.1 Emissions [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 2, A]
 - No-build alternative
 - 100 MW wind project
 - 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - Grand Meadow Wind Farm

- 3.2 Hazardous air pollutants and VOCs [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 2, B]
 - No-build alternative
 - 100 MW wind project
 - 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - Grand Meadow Wind Farm
- 3.3 Visibility impairment [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 2, C]
 - No-build alternative
 - 100 MW wind project
 - 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - Grand Meadow Wind Farm
- 3.4 Ozone formation [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 2, D]
 - No-build alternative
 - 100 MW wind project
 - 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - Grand Meadow Wind Farm
- 3.5 Fuel availability and delivery [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 2, E]
 - No-build alternative
 - 100 MW wind project
 - 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - Grand Meadow Wind Farm
- 3.6 Associated transmission facilities [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 2, F]
 - No-build alternative
 - 100 MW wind project
 - 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - Grand Meadow Wind Farm
- 3.7 Water appropriations [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 2, G]
 - No-build alternative
 - 100 MW wind project
 - 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - Grand Meadow Wind Farm
- 3.8 Wastewater [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 2, H]
 - No-build alternative
 - 100 MW wind project
 - 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - Grand Meadow Wind Farm
- 3.9 Solid and hazardous wastes [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 2, I]
 - No-build alternative
 - 100 MW wind project
 - 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - Grand Meadow Wind Farm

3.10 Noise [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 2, J]

- No-build alternative
- 100 MW wind project
- 38.5 MW biomass plant
- Grand Meadow Wind Farm

4.0 Mitigation measures [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 1, E]

- 4.1 No-build alternative
- 4.2 100 MW wind project
- 4.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
- 4.4 Grand Meadow Wind Farm

5.0 Feasibility and availability of alternatives [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 1, F]

- 5.1 No-build alternative
- 5.2 100 MW wind project
- 5.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
- 5.4 Grand Meadow Wind Farm

6.0 Required permits [Minn. Rule 7849.7060, subp. 1, G]

SCHEDULE

The Environmental Review will be completed by October 31, 2007.

Signed this 23 day of October, 2007

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Glenn Wilson, Commissioner